Course Information

Course Description
This course is designed to give students practical experience in the scientific process by choosing a social psychological topic of their interest, conducting a background literature review, completing an online research ethics training, completing an IRB application, gaining practice with statistics, and writing a research proposal that follows APA style format. Additionally, students will be encouraged to develop a critical analysis of psychological research by reading and discussing contemporary research in the field. The focus of this course is for students to be active learners and to find the necessary resources to complete the assignments. This is a valuable skill that can apply to life both in and out of college.

Course Credits
3

Prerequisite Courses
PSY 2321 and PSY 3321.

Prerequisite Skills
Accessing and using the statistics program SPSS, accessing and using Blackboard, accessing and using ASU Library resources, and proficiency with Microsoft Word are expectations of this course.
Program Outcomes
Upon completion of the program of study for this course, the graduate will be prepared to:

Student Learning Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Learning Outcome</th>
<th>Assignment(s) or activity(ies) validating outcome achievement:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Learn Research Ethics</td>
<td>Complete the CITI online ethics certificate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communicate in written form using APA format</td>
<td>Writing an IRB application, and writing a research proposal in APA format</td>
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<tr>
<td>Demonstrate a critical analysis of research</td>
<td>Gain practice analyzing data using appropriate statistical tests</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conduct literature review</td>
<td>Conduct article reviews related to the student’s research proposal</td>
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Course Delivery
This is an online 16-week course with learning resources and materials posted in Blackboard. Students are expected to seek the necessary sources and resources to complete the assignments. If there are questions, then I will be here to help guide you. You can always email me your questions, and/or I can set up a Zoom meeting if you wish.

Required Texts and Materials
No required text.

Recommended Texts and Materials
Students in this class may find the following to be helpful as a guide for writing assignments: 6th edition of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association.
Technology Requirements
To successfully complete this course, students need to have access to Blackboard, SPSS, and Microsoft Word.

Communication
I will try to respond to emails within 24 hours during working hours Monday through Friday. Weekend messages may not be returned until Monday.

Written course communication via email: All course communication will be done exclusively through your ASU email address. Check frequently for announcements and policy changes.

Grading

Evaluation and Grades
Course grades will be determined as indicated in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Percent/Points of Total Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introductions – Discussion Board</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choosing Topic – Discussion Board</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethics Certificate</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IRB Proposal</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Statistics Homework</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Research Proposal</td>
<td>400</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Points</strong></td>
<td><strong>1000</strong></td>
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Grading System
Course grades will be dependent upon completing course requirements and meeting the student learning outcomes. There is no curve. The following grading scale is in use for this course:

- A = 900-1000 points
- B = 800-899 points
- C = 700-799 points
- D = 600-699 points
- F = 0-599 points
Teaching Strategies

Students are expected to be “active learners.” It is a basic assumption of the instructor that students will be involved discovering, processing, and applying the course information using peer-review journal articles, researching additional information and examples on the Internet, and discussing course material and experiences.

Assignment and Activity Descriptions

A. Introductions on Blackboard (50 points). Students are asked to introduce themselves to the class and to tell a little bit about themselves and their interests. The specific instructions for your introductions are listed on Blackboard and you will have to the Friday of the first week to complete your introduction and respond to another classmate.

B. Research topic selection process (50 points). Students will choose a specific area of a social psychological process that they find to be most interesting. Some examples might include (but are not limited to) person perception, social stereotypes, attitude change, helping, self-concept, attraction, or close relationships. If you are unsure if your topic of interest is social psychological in nature, simply send me an email and I’ll let you know.

C. Ethics certification (100 points). Before students are allowed to collect data they must pass an online ethics tutorial for protecting human research participants. This is a requirement for the class. Students must go to the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) website: https://citiprogram.org and register. There are step by step instructions for accessing the training in a pdf on our class website. ****IMPORTANT - You will need to complete the course “Human Subjects – Social & Behavioral Research – Basic/Refresher.”****

D. Institutional Review Board (IRB) application (200 points). To gain practice in the research process, all students must submit an IRB application form (located on Blackboard). You will include your rationale in the Summary section of the application, and then follow all of the instructions for each section. Each student must submit her or his own individual work. There is an example IRB application posted under the IRB forms on the course website.

E. Statistics homework assignments (200 points). Students will be responsible for completing statistics assignments that will be posted online.

F. Final Research proposal (400 points). Students’ written research proposal must adhere to APA style format. Each proposal must include a title page, an introduction, a method section, an expected results section, a discussion section, and a reference page. Each student must work individually to write her or his own individual research proposal. The
paper should be no less than 5 pages, and no more than 7 pages (not including the title page and reference page). Your research proposal should include the following:

1. A title page formatted according to APA format. Please refer to Purdue OWL and to the guidelines posted on our course Blackboard under APA Writing tab.

2. An introduction that discusses your proposed study. You will want to include at least three empirical articles and discuss the background literature and how it fits in with your specific proposal and specify your hypothesis for your proposal. You will want to discuss each of your articles in some detail explaining what the authors of the articles investigated, how they did, what they found, and how it relates to your proposed study. THIS IS NOT THE SAME THING AS YOUR IRB PROPOSAL. Cutting and pasting from your previous work that you turned in for a grade is self-plagiarism and will be treated as such. So, please do yourself a favor and write original work for this paper.

3. A method section that includes a section of who your participants will be, how many you plan to recruit, how many you plan to recruit them. Because this is a proposal, you do not have to use ASU students or Sona if a different population would be more relevant for your specific proposed study. Next you will want to discuss your stimuli (such as photos or scenarios) and your survey questionnaires that you plan to use. Again, you cannot engage in self-plagiarism from your IRB proposal. Finally, you will discuss the procedure you plan to do, step by step.

4. An expected results section is next. This is where you will discuss the type(s) of statistical test you plan to use to test your hypothesis, and why you chose the test you did. Then you will discuss what results you expect to find (this should be based on the background literature you discuss in your introduction).

5. The discussion section addresses the importance of your study and the implications for your findings. Why is it important and who will it benefit?

6. The reference page is last and is on its own page. Please refer to Purdue OWL for how to format references on the reference page.

7. The paper needs to be written in 12-pt Times New Roman font, and have 1-inch margins. I’ve included how-to documents for each section of the paper to help you. You can find these under the menu tab on Blackboard called “How-to Documents.”
POLICY ON LATE OR MISSED ASSIGNMENTS
No late work is accepted unless prior approval is given by the instructor.

Course Schedule

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 29th</td>
<td>Introductions, due by Friday, Jan. 29th – Discussion Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 5th</td>
<td>CITI Ethics Completion form due by Friday, Feb. 5th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 12th</td>
<td>What is Your Research Proposal Topic? due by Friday, Feb. 12th</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 12th</td>
<td>IRB Application due by Friday, March 12th</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 2nd</td>
<td>Statistics Assignments due by Friday, April 2nd</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday May 7th</td>
<td>Final Research Proposal Due (you can also turn it in early) due by May 7th</td>
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General Policies Related to This Course
All students are required to follow the policies and procedures presented in these documents:

- Angelo State University Student Handbook
- Angelo State University Catalog

Student Responsibility and Attendance

Academic Integrity
Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in all work. Any student found guilty of any form of dishonesty in academic work is subject to disciplinary action and possible expulsion from ASU.
The College of Health and Human Services adheres to the university’s [Statement of Academic Integrity](#).

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

ASU is committed to the principle that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs or activities of the university, or be subjected to discrimination by the university, as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments of 2008 (ADAAA) and subsequent legislation.

Student Disability Services is located in the Office of Student Affairs, and is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability. It is the student’s responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting an employee of the Office of Student Affairs, in the Houston Harte University Center, Room 112, or contacting the department via email at [ADA@angelo.edu](mailto:ADA@angelo.edu). For more information about the application process and requirements, visit the [Student Disability Services website](#). The employee charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing accommodation requests is:

Dallas Swafford  
Director of Student Disability Services  
Office of Student Affairs  
325-942-2047  
dallas.swafford@angelo.edu  
Houston Harte University Center, Room 112

**Incomplete Grade Policy**

It is policy that incomplete grades be reserved for student illness or personal misfortune. Please contact faculty if you have serious illness or a personal misfortune that would keep you from completing course work. Documentation may be required. See ASU Operating Policy 10.11 [Grading Procedures](#) for more information.

**Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is a serious topic covered in ASU’s [Academic Integrity policy](#) in the Student Handbook. Plagiarism is the action or practice of taking someone else’s work, idea, etc., and passing it off as one’s own. Plagiarism is literary theft.
In your discussions and/or your papers, it is unacceptable to copy word-for-word without quotation marks and the source of the quotation. It is expected that you will summarize or paraphrase ideas giving appropriate credit to the source both in the body of your paper and the reference list.

Papers are subject to be evaluated for originality. Resources to help you understand this policy better are available at the ASU Writing Center.⁷

**Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Days**

A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. See ASU Operating Policy 10.19 Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Day⁸ for more information.

**Copyright Policy**

Students officially enrolled in this course should make only one printed copy of the given articles and/or chapters. You are expressly prohibited from distributing or reproducing any portion of course readings in printed or electronic form without written permission from the copyright holders or publishers.

**Syllabus Changes**

The faculty member reserves the option to make changes as necessary to this syllabus and the course content. If changes become necessary during this course, the faculty will notify students of such changes by email, course announcements and/or via a discussion board announcement. It is the student’s responsibility to look for such communications about the course on a daily basis.

**Title IX at Angelo State University**

Angelo State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. In accordance with Title VII, Title IX, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE), and other federal and state laws, the University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination and unwelcome behavior of a sexual nature. The term includes sexual harassment, nonconsensual sexual contact, nonconsensual sexual intercourse, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, stalking, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence or dating violence), sexual violence, and any other misconduct based on sex.
You are encouraged to report any incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator, Michelle Boone, J.D. You may submit reports in the following manner:

Online: [www.angelo.edu/incident-form](http://www.angelo.edu/incident-form)
Face to face: Mayer Administration Building, Room 210
Phone: 325-942-2022
Email: [michelle.boone@angelo.edu](mailto:michelle.boone@angelo.edu)

*Note, as a faculty member at Angelo State, I am a mandatory reporter and must report incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator. Should you wish to speak to someone in confidence about an issue, you may contact the University Counseling Center (325-942-2371), the 24-Hour Crisis Helpline (325-486-6345), or the University Health Clinic (325-942-2171).*

For more information about resources related to sexual misconduct, Title IX, or Angelo State’s policy please visit: [www.angelo.edu/title-ix](http://www.angelo.edu/title-ix).

**Student Evaluation of Faculty and Course**

Students in all programs are given the opportunity to evaluate their courses and the faculty who teach them. Evaluations are most helpful when they are honest, fair, constructive, and pertinent to the class, clinical experience, or course. Faculty value student evaluations, and use student suggestions in making modifications in courses, labs and clinical experiences. Angelo State University uses the IDEA (Individual Development and Educational Assessment) system administered through Kansas State University for all course evaluations. The Office of Institutional Research and Assessment administers IDEA for the entire university, online and has established a policy whereby students can complete course evaluations free from coercion.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

1. Developing specific skills, competencies, and points of view needed by professionals in the field most closely related to this course
2. Acquiring skills in working with others as a member of a team
3. Developing skill in expressing oneself orally or in writing

**End of Syllabus**